



Consumers Petroleum

204 SPRING HILL ROAD • TRUMBULL, CT 06611 • PHONE (203) 261-3123 • FAX (203) 261-7755

March 7, 2011

Co-Chair Edward Meyer
Co-Chair Richard Roy
Senator Andrew Roraback
Representative Clark Chapin

Environment Committee:

I am submitting testimony in support S.B. 1113, *AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONNECTICUT COMMERCIAL TANK INSURANCE ACCOUNT*.

My name is Rich Wiehl, I am President Consumers Petroleum located in Trumbull, CT. We are a local, family owned petroleum distributor started by my grandfather. We also operate the Secondi Truck Stop in Milford.

As the operator and supplier to several dozen gas stations in Connecticut, my company, my customers, and the people I employ rely on the Tank Program to satisfy the Federal Government's requirement to establish "financial responsibility" for any petroleum release that may occur. The current funding proposed in the budget threatens to render the program inoperable and would negatively affect a tank owner's ability to clean up unintentional releases and satisfy federal law.

Consumers Petroleum, like most petroleum distributors work hard to ensure that underground storage tanks do not leak. We go to great lengths and expense to make sure our tank's are in compliance with local, state and federal regulations. The Tank Program exists in the event that things do not go as planned.

If we suspect a leak, we contact DEP and take immediate action to remedy the cause of the suspected leak. After the cleanup is complete we can wait well over a year to get reimbursed. With the proposed cuts in the budget to the Tank Program we are being put in a position where it will take even longer to get reimbursed which may delay cleanups.

Connecticut businesses need a Tank Program that serves the best interests of the environment and complies with Federal Law. The current program is failing to accomplish those goals and needs to be fixed.

If passed, S.B. 1113 would create a new funding source without hurting the states budget and avert a pending disaster if the Tank Program budget continues to be cut like it has over the last several years.

I ask that the Environment Committee **support S.B. 1113, AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CONNECTICUT COMMERCIAL TANK INSURANCE
ACCOUNT.**

Sincerely,

Rich Wiehl

Rich Wiehl
President